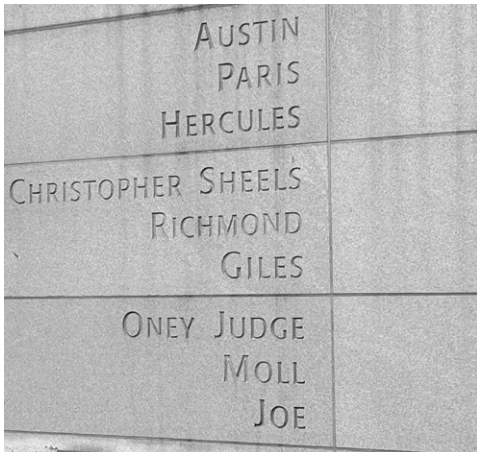
MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!
workers.org Vol. 67, No. 32 August 7, 2025

PHILADELPHIA

Movement fights racist censorship of slavery

President Donald Trump's campaign to ban any accurate depictions of U.S. history, in particular its racist roots in the enslavement of Africans, now faces organized activists in Philadelphia determined to fight back. Avenging The Ancestors Coalition (ATAC), which led the historic fight from 2002 to 2010 to include recognition of enslaved Africans in the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia displays, held a press conference at the President's House Site Aug. 2 that called for building a bigger, better, broad-based, multiracial coalition to take on Trump's threats. *See article, page 3.*



WW PHOTO: BETSEY PIETTE

Panel at the President's House Site bears names of nine African workers enslaved by George Washington.

Grand Central Terminal, Aug. 3, 2025. PHOTO: OSHIMAGES

End the siege of Gaza!

By Emmy

As hundreds of Palestinians, predominantly children, starve to death every day in Gaza, the rage within the belly of the imperial beast grows. In response to global calls for action to pressure and hold governments complicit in the genocide responsible, Within Our Lifetime, a Palestinian-led coalition founded in New York City, held a rally on Aug. 4 that began at City Hall, detoured at Grand Central Terminal, and eventually ended at the Moynihan Train Hall at Penn Station.

As a Palestinian flag, which occupied the width of Park Avenue, led the march, roaring chants demanding to break the siege and allow aid into Rafah and Gaza followed.

Organizers denounced governments, including the U.S., Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates for sustaining the genocide and more so, for normalizing and profiting off it.

The militance of the four-mile action escalated once the protest reached Grand Central Terminal. Activists rushed through the doors and up the steps at Vanderbilt Hall, raising the gargantuan Palestinian flag, showcasing their solidarity for the martyrs and steadfastness in support for Palestinian liberation. After multiple arrests were made at the terminal, the demonstrators proceeded towards Moynihan Train Hall to conclude the day of action.

Break the siege!

Death to the IDF!

Victory to Palestine and the resistance!

In this issue

◆ **In the U.S.**
Movement fights racist censorship of slavery 3

◆ **Editorial**
Liars figure … and they fire people! 4

◆ **Mundo Obrero**
Trump y Epstein: Dos cerdos en un corral 5

Articles at workers.org

◆ **In the U.S.**
Charges dropped on Alejandro Orellana – a big win! . . LINK
WNBA players demand: 'Pay us what you owe us!' . . . . . LINK
Trump and Epstein: Two pigs in a pen . . . . . LINK
U.S. out of Korea! . . . . . LINK
Protest outside Philippine Consulate . . . . . LINK

◆ **Around the World**
Hamas: Resistance's weapon belongs to all factions . . . LINK
No more Hiroshimas and Nagasakis! . . . . . LINK
IOF kidnaps, tortures Black labor leader . . . . . LINK
Union in Genoa, Italy, stops arms shipment. . . . . LINK
Gagauzia – a new flashpoint in eastern Europe . . . . . LINK
PFLP exposes two-state solution . . . . . LINK
Palestinian factions on New York Declaration . . . . . LINK
WWP on attack on Freedom Flotilla, Chris Smalls . . . . . LINK
History of U.S. intervention in Korea . . . . . LINK
Black Agenda Report at journalism forum in China . . . . LINK

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WORKERS WORLD

August 7, 2025

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Vol. 67, No. 32 • August 7, 2025
Closing date: August 6, 2025

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001. Phone: 212.627.2994.
Subscriptions: One year: $36; institutions: $50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998.
A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001.

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Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at **www.workers.org/join-form** and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Movement fights racist censorship of slavery

By Betsey Piette

In May, Trump issued an executive order calling for Interior Secretary Doug Burgum to "ensure" that content which "inappropriately disparages" U.S. individuals past or living ceases to exist at national parks, including Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. In 2026, this INHP will be at the center of the celebration of the country's 250th anniversary.

In just six weeks, over a dozen exhibits about enslavement at INHP could be removed or covered up, including materials at the President's House Site, the Benjamin Franklin Museum, the Second Bank of the U.S., Independence Hall and an outdoor exhibit panel on Independence Mall.

But Trump's campaign to ban any accurate depictions of U.S. history, in particular its racist roots in the enslavement of Africans, is running up against organized activists in Philadelphia determined to fight back.

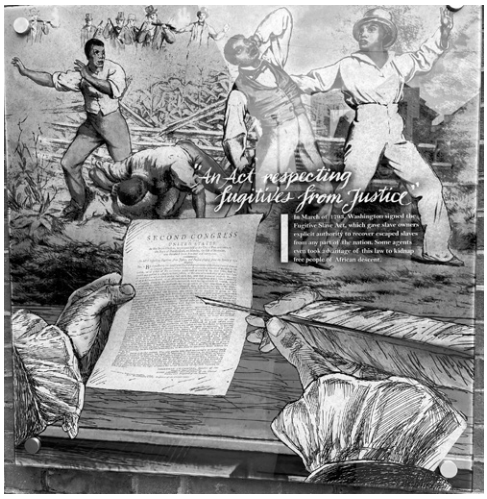
Avenging The Ancestors Coalition (ATAC), which led the historic fight from 2002 to 2010 to include recognition of enslaved Africans in the INHP displays, held a press conference attended by over 100 people at the President's House Site on Aug. 2 to announce their campaign to fight Trump's censorship.

Fight to include enslaved Africans' history

In 2002, the Liberty Bell was moved to the northwest side of Independence Park at Sixth and Market streets, where the first "White House" — occupied by U.S. Presidents George Washington from 1790 to 1797 and John Adams from 1797 to 1800 — was located. Built by Robert Morris, a financier of the Revolutionary War who made his fortune from the slave trade, the house was torn down and its foundation covered in 1832.

While historians were aware that Washington enslaved 316 people at his Mount Vernon plantation in Virginia, lesser known was that Washington brought nine enslaved Africans to Philadelphia, where slavery was illegal. The new location also held burial grounds with remains of the Africans enslaved by Washington.

When the National Parks Service (NPS) made the decision to relocate the Liberty Bell, they chose to ignore the full history of the site, including the areas where the nine enslaved individuals were quartered behind Washington's house. In response, ATAC, under the leadership of progressive Black attorney Michael Coard, organized, fought, protested, held meetings and demonstrated to compel the INHP to agree to the creation of a prominent Slavery Memorial to highlight the President's House project.



WW PHOTO: BETSEY PIETTE

Panel depicts Washington's signing of the infamous 1793 Fugitive Slave Act. Posse of white men with clubs and guns in the background shooting at four Black men escaping from enslavement.

Funded by Philadelphia and federal money, the President's House Site was opened in 2010 and later transferred to NPS ownership in 2015. During construction of the site, archeologists involved in the excavation explained the site's history to a steady stream of people passing by, pointing out where the nine Africans worked and lived and how their activities were hidden from anyone walking by the house on Market Street. The building's foundation is still viewable, encased in glass.

Say their names

The site tells the stories of the nine enslaved people: Austin and Paris — horsemen and stable hands; Hercules — the chief cook; Christopher Sheels — Washington's personal attendant; Richmond — Hercules' son and kitchen worker; Giles — a driver and stable hand; Ona Marie Judge — Martha Washington's personal maid; Moll — nursemaid to the Washington's grandchildren; and Joe Richardson — a stable hand.

The site highlights Washington's signing of the infamous 1793 Fugitive Slave Act that put those who escaped enslavement at risk of recapture for the rest of their lives. Artwork on this display shows Washington's hands holding a quill signing the Act, with a posse of white men with clubs and guns in the background shooting at four Black men escaping from enslavement. After this act was signed, Ona Judge successfully escaped enslavement by the Washingtons in 1796.

The exhibit, on Trump's targeted list, focuses on the contradictory coexistence of liberty (for whites) and enslavement for Africans. One panel called "Life Under Slavery" illustrates the whippings, deprivation of food, clothing and shelter, beatings, torture and rapes endured by enslaved people. Other displays on Trump's list include "The Dirty Business of Slavery" and "The House and the People Who Worked & Lived in It."

At the press conference, Michael Coard told the crowd: "You can talk about George Washington being a great president, if you want, but can you be a great human being when you held 316 fellow human beings in brutal bondage under slavery? The content about Washington that was flagged for Trump's review is historical fact." Coard called for building a bigger, better, broad-based, multiracial coalition to take on Trump's threats.

Roz McPherson, the original project manager for the President's House Site who organized and chaired the press conference, called the rally "a starting point for a strategic effort to protect this important aspect of U.S. history." McPherson repeatedly shared the text number 856-249-7874 for people in Philadelphia and outside to send their contact information if they want to be involved.

Liani Roundtree Johnson, an educator, said that while schooling may have left out the violence of slavery, places like the President's House Site help fill gaps in people's understanding of history. "How can we expect our young children to be change-makers and revolutionaries if we don't educate them? We cannot." ❐

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WORKERS WORLD editorial

Liars figure . . . and they fire people!

The saying "figures don't lie, but liars do figure" has often been attributed to author Mark Twain. Some researchers disagree on the source. But whatever its origin, the adage could easily be applied to President Donald Trump — who has no interest in real numbers that align with reality.

And another few words could be added: Liars do fire people.

Unemployed workers demonstrate in the 1930s. Workers today need a mass movement to fight for jobs.

Dr. Erika McEntarfer, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, released data on Aug. 1 that suggested a slowing economy, based on the number of new jobs created in July. She also presented revised, less optimistic jobs figures for May and June. These reports are based on factual information and using methods the BLS has used whoever is president.

Trump fired McEntarfer the same day the figures were made public. He said her facts were somehow "rigged" to make it look like the capitalist economy has not, as Trump has claimed, been booming since he took office in January.

McEntarfer's appointment was approved last year with bipartisan support — only eight senators opposed her nomination. Among those voting for her were then-Senators JD Vance and Marco Rubio, now vice president and secretary of state respectively, and both subservient to Trump.

Trump's brazenly dictatorial move violates even basic bourgeois democratic norms. The capitalist class relies on agencies such as the BLS for statistical information that reflects how its economy is faring, even when the numbers present a negative outlook.

Trump fired a person tasked with delivering necessary information. Thus many politicians from both parties are condemning Trump's actions.

Of course, it's the workers who really suffer when employment levels drop. The rich are still rich when that happens. In July, according to the BLS, only 73,000 new jobs were created, but there were 985,000 "new entrants" who were unemployed while looking for their first job. This was an increase of 275,000 people, probably mostly youth. (bls.gov, Aug. 1)

The total official number of unemployed workers remained steady at 7.2 million. Another 4.7 million people were underemployed — working part time, because they couldn't find full-time work. The jobs figures were impacted by cuts in the federal workforce under Trump as well as mass layoffs of tech workers.

The unemployment rates are higher for workers of color, as is typically the case. And the numbers don't include incarcerated and undocumented workers, who are integral members of the working class.

Unemployment and low wages

The capitalists benefit when there are millions more workers looking for work than there are jobs, because the competition tends to push wages downward. This means the rich pocket more money as profit.

What it means for the working class is that close to half, or by some surveys more than half, of all U.S. workers are living "paycheck to paycheck." In other words, they have little to no money left over after their living expenses, and an unexpected catastrophe could push them over the edge. (econofact.org, Feb. 26)

However, under late-stage capitalism — capitalism at a dead end — a crisis of overproduction threatens profits. The capitalists depend on federal agencies, including the BLS, to keep them informed on the state of the economy, so they can figure out how to shift the burden of a recession or a depression onto the working class. The stock market plummeted after the jobs report came out.

While Trump blames the Democrats for rigging figures to make him look bad, the Democrats will view an economic downturn as an opportunity to recoup their losses in the next election. They will present the firing of McEntarfer as yet another assault on "our democracy."

In truth, the economic hardship suffered by workers is a product of a system that puts profits before people — regardless of who sits in the White House or controls Congress and how well they follow the rules of conduct under capitalism.

The task of revolutionaries is to channel the anger over Trump's attacks on the working class as well as unemployment, underemployment and low wages — which disproportionately impact oppressed workers and youth — in the direction of overthrowing the whole capitalist system. ☐

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Trump y Epstein: Dos cerdos en un corral

Por Martha Grevatt

El grupo Hot Mess sostiene fotos de Epstein en una protesta, Nueva York, 8 de julio de 2019.

Pocas personas discutirían el hecho de que el capitalista financiero ultra misógino Jeffrey Epstein, que abusó sexualmente y explotó a chicas adolescentes, era un ser humano despreciable. No se derramaron muchas lágrimas cuando murió en prisión en 2019, supuestamente por suicidio, negando a las numerosas víctimas de Epstein su día en los tribunales.

Epstein vuelve a ser noticia de primera plana en 2025 debido a la falta de voluntad del presidente Donald Trump de hacer públicos los documentos conocidos como «los archivos Epstein», que se rumorea que incluyen «listas de clientes» con el nombre del presidente. En su lugar, Trump ha pedido que se hagan públicos los expedientes del gran jurado del caso contra Epstein y su compañera sentimental y cómplice Ghislaine Maxwell, que cumple una condena de 20 años de cárcel por su papel en la captación de víctimas menores de edad para que Epstein abusara de ellas.

Los políticos del Partido Demócrata exigen la divulgación de todos los «archivos Epstein» y de las cintas y transcripciones de una reciente entrevista de dos días que el Departamento de Justicia realizó a Maxwell.

Trump -que durante su campaña electoral acusó a los políticos del Partido Demócrata de encubrir las pruebas que incriminaban a Epstein y sugirió que el ex presidente Bill Clinton había mandado matar a Epstein- es ahora el que está implicado en un encubrimiento. Está restando importancia a su larga amistad con el financiero, diciendo que rompió los lazos después de que Epstein supuestamente «robara» a los empleados de Trump, incluida Virginia Giuffre, que ha acusado a Epstein de abusar sexualmente de ella cuando era adolescente.

Informes anteriores en los medios de comunicación sugirieron que hubo un desencuentro después de que los dos capitalistas pujaran por la misma parcela de bienes raíces en Manhattan.

Ahora Trump llama a Epstein «un asqueroso». Pero no se equivoque. Tanto Trump como Epstein son asquerosos de la peor calaña. Trump victimizó a algunas personas con las que Epstein estaba asociado antes de la supuesta disputa sobre la propiedad o los trabajadores o lo que sea. En cuanto a la inmoralidad de la agresión sexual, ninguno de los dos tiene reparos en abusar sexualmente de las mujeres: el historial de Trump habla por sí solo.

Y este tipo de asquerosidad -un eufemismo teniendo en cuenta la descarada y sistémica explotación sexual de mujeres y niñas- no se limita ni a los republicanos ni a los demócratas, independientemente de las acusaciones que políticos y financiadores se lancen unos a otros y de los vericuetos de sus relaciones mutuas. Epstein dio grandes cantidades de dinero a candidatos demócratas a cargos públicos en las décadas de 1990 y 2000.

Y hablando de demócratas que cometen faltas sexuales, no hay más que mirar al ex gobernador de Nueva York, Andrew Cuomo, que ahora se presenta como «independiente» a la alcaldía de Nueva York tras perder en las primarias demócratas contra Zohran Mamdani.

¿Por qué se permite siquiera a estos cerdos sexistas presentarse a las elecciones, y mucho menos ocupar un cargo?

La verdad es que la misoginia es parte integrante de la sociedad de clases. Los hombres de las clases dominantes -esclavistas, señores feudales y ahora capitalistas- han tenido generalmente libertad para explotar sexualmente a las mujeres, especialmente a las de las clases explotadas.

Si algunos perpetradores como Epstein o Maxwell (que, según se rumorea, podría ser indultado por Trump) o Harvey Weinstein (una de sus condenas por violación fue posteriormente anulada) o Trump (que no ha cumplido ni un día de cárcel por sus crímenes) fueron atrapados, fue porque el movimiento Me Too empujó al Estado a conceder algo de justicia a las víctimas. El movimiento Me Too, fundado por Tarana Burke en 2006, ha dado voz a millones de mujeres, niñas y personas oprimidas por motivos de género -especialmente las de color- que sufrieron traumas sexuales.

Muchas personas, comprensiblemente, quieren que se haga pública toda la documentación en torno a los abusos de Epstein. Sin embargo, las disputas internas entre sectores de la clase dirigente sobre los archivos y las transcripciones no se traducirán en justicia para quienes han sido objeto de abusos sexuales. Y ciertamente no abordará los recortes masivos en servicios necesarios contenidos en el mal llamado «Gran y hermoso proyecto de ley/Big, Beautiful Bill». En todo caso, es una distracción de esa lucha.

Para acabar realmente con todas las formas de explotación, incluida la sexual, tenemos que abolir el sistema basado en la explotación de un ser humano por otro: el capitalismo. ☐

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